

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: STUDENT ELECTIONS

1. STUDENT ELECTIONS FOR COMMITTEES IN EACH HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY WILL TAKE PLACE, AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 THROUGHOUT GREECE. STUDENTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED IN PERSON ON CAMPUS THIS AUTUMN WILL MEET AT EACH FACULTY AND VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT ON THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SAFE ASSUMPTION IS THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE DECIDED LARGELY ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES RANGING FROM SOCIALIST TO EXTREME LEFT. MOST SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THREE MAJOR FACTIONS CONTENDING FOR POSITIONS: THEY ARE COMMUNISTS WITH MOSCOW ORIENTATION, COMMUNISTS OF DOMESTIC ORIENTATION AND INDEPENDENT LEFT WHICH GROUPS ABOUT TWENTY RADICAL MARXIST, MAOIST, AND ANARCHIST GROUPS. DEJUNTIZATION AS SUCH IS NOT AN ISSUE AMONG STUDENT CANDIDATES SINCE ABOUT 98 PERCENT OF ALL STUDENTS APPEAR TO ACCEPT THE DEJUNTIZATION MOVEMENT. CERTAIN STUDENTS, WHO ARE WELL-KNOWN BECAUSE OF THEIR RESISTANCE RECORDS, ARE EXPECTED TO WIN REGARDLESS OF WHICH FACTION SUPPORTS THEM, BUT FORTUNES OF MOST CANDIDATES DEPEND ON WHICH OF SEVERAL FAR LEFT IDEOLOGIES TRIUMPHS IN EACH SCHOOL.

3. CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS HAVE VERY FEW IF ANY CANDIDATES TO
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PUT FORWARD. UP TO HALF THE STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

BECAUSE THEY DID NOT MAKE THE SPECIAL EFFORT TO APPEAR ON CAMPUS THIS AUTUMN TO REGISTER. THOSE WHO FAILED TO REGISTER ARE LARGELY FROM THE PROVINCES, THOSE WHO DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY CENTERS UNTIL CLASSES RESUME. OTHER CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS WHO WERE ACTIVE IN SEPTEMBER IN CAMPUS POLITICS TELL EMOFFS THAT THEY HAVE NOW DROPPED OUT OF THE RUNNING BECAUSE OF THE MORE PERSISTENT AND RELENTLESS ENERGY OF THE FAR LEFT. WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT FORMER CONSERVATIVE AND CENTER UNION YOUTH GROUPS HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING THE NOVEMBER 9 STUDENT ELECTIONS. RATHER, BOTH CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS AND EVEN PAPANDREOU ARE CHANNELING THEIR STUDENT SUPPORTERS INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND ABANDONING THE CAMPUS POLITICAL SCENE TO FAR LEFT. THE MANY AVERAGE STUDENTS OF MODERATE SOCIALIST INCLINATION WILL IF THEY PARTICIPATE IN VOTING GENERALLY HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE THREE BETTER ORGANIZED RADICAL FACTIONS.
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